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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 10/604,708 | 08/12/2003 | Christine K. Shewmaker | 38-77(52794) | 1707 |
| 27161 | 7590 | 06/23/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| MONSANTO COMPANY 800 N. LINDBERGH BLVD. ATTENTION: GAIL P. WUELLNER, IP PARALEGAL, (E2NA) ST. LOUIS, MO 63167 | | | MCELWAIN, ELIZABETH F | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1638 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/604,708 | SHEWMAKER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Elizabeth F. McElwain | 1638 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method for increasing total oil level in a plant by transforming a plant with a sequence capable of modulating the level of FAD2 mRNA or FAD2 protein, classified in class 800, subclass 281.
 - II. Claim 11, drawn to a chimeric gene that will result in an increase in oil, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1. Note that if this Group is elected, then applicant must also elect one of SEQ ID NO: 1, 4, 7-11, 14, 19, 22, 25 or 26.
 - III. Claims 12-20, drawn to a method for increasing total oil level in a seed by transforming with one of the sequences in sense orientation represented by SEQ ID in the claims, classified in class 800, subclass 281. Note that if this Group is elected, then applicant must also elect one of SEQ ID NO: 1, 4, 7-11, 14, 19, 22, 25 or 26.
 - IV. Claims 12-20, drawn to a method for increasing total oil level in a seed by transforming with one of the sequences in anti-sense orientation represented by SEQ ID in the claims, classified in class 800, subclass 281. Note that if this Group is elected, then applicant must also elect one of SEQ ID NO: 1, 4, 7-11, 14, 19, 22, 25 or 26.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Applicants are reminded that nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute **independent and distinct** inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq.

Upon election of any of Groups I, III and IV above, Applicant is additionally required to select a single nucleotide sequence. This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide sequence is not a member of single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

2. Inventions II-IV each are directed to related methods. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, each method requires different nucleotide sequences, wherein the invention of Group I requires any nucleotide sequence that is capable of modulating the level of FAD2 mRNA or protein, while Group III requires the sense orientation of the SEQ ID numbers specified, and Group IV requires the antisense orientation of the SEQ ID numbers specified, such that each is structurally and biochemically distinct and results in a different effect.

3. Inventions II and I, II and IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for

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using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case the product of Group II is a nucleic acid which can be used in a method other than for modulating oil content in a plant, such as for hybridization to clone related genes, for example.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and the requirement for different searches, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Please note that the font size of the specification and the claims provided in the originally filed application is much too large and is difficult to read. See 37 CFR 1.52, where it requests a font size of 12, and suggests the font types of Arial, Times Roman or Courier. Please provide all future correspondence in a font size of 12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth F. McElwain whose telephone number is (571) 272-0802. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on 571-272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Elizabeth F. McElwain
Ph.D. Level Examiner
Art Unit 1638

EFM